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| APPLICATION NO.   | FILING DATE | FIRST NAMED INVENTOR | ATTORNEY DOCKET NO. | CONFIRMATION NO. |
|---|-------------|----------------------|---------------------|------------------|
| 10/527,341  | 10/31/2005  | Claude Casses        | 003D.0054.U1(US)    | 7142             |
| 29683   | 7590        | 09/20/2006           | EXAMINER            |                  |
| HARRINGTON & SMITH, LLP<br>4 RESEARCH DRIVE<br>SHELTON, CT 06484-6212 |             |                      | VU, HIEN D          |                  |
|   |             |                      | ART UNIT            | PAPER NUMBER     |
|   |             |                      | 2833                |                  |

DATE MAILED: 09/20/2006

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

|                              |                 |  |               |  |
|------------------------------|-----------------|--|---------------|--|
| <b>Office Action Summary</b> | Application No. |  | Applicant(s)  |  |
|                              | 10/527,341      |  | CASSES ET AL. |  |
|                              | Examiner        |  | Art Unit      |  |
|                              | Hien D. Vu      |  | 2833          |  |

**-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --**

**Period for Reply**

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) OR THIRTY (30) DAYS, WHICHEVER IS LONGER, FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133). Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

**Status**

- 1) ☐ Responsive to communication(s) filed on \_\_\_\_.
- 2a) ☐ This action is **FINAL**.                      2b) ☒ This action is non-final.
- 3) ☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

**Disposition of Claims**

- 4) ☒ Claim(s) 1-10 is/are pending in the application.
- 4a) Of the above claim(s) \_\_\_\_ is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- 5) ☐ Claim(s) \_\_\_\_ is/are allowed.
- 6) ☒ Claim(s) 1-10 is/are rejected.
- 7) ☐ Claim(s) \_\_\_\_ is/are objected to.
- 8) ☐ Claim(s) \_\_\_\_ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

**Application Papers**

- 9) ☐ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- 10) ☐ The drawing(s) filed on \_\_\_\_ is/are: a) ☐ accepted or b) ☐ objected to by the Examiner.  
     Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).  
     Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).
- 11) ☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

**Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119**

- 12) ☒ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
- a) ☒ All    b) ☐ Some \* c) ☐ None of:
1. ☒ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
2. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. \_\_\_\_.
3. ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

\* See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

**Attachment(s)**

- |  |   |
|--|---|
| 1) <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)            | 4) <input type="checkbox"/> Interview Summary (PTO-413)           |
| 2) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)   | Paper No(s)/Mail Date. ____.                                      |
| 3) <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO/SB/08) | 5) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Informal Patent Application |
| Paper No(s)/Mail Date ____.  | 6) <input type="checkbox"/> Other: ____.                          |

### DETAILED ACTION

1. The drawings are objected to under 37 CFR 1.83(a). The drawings must show every feature of the invention specified in the claims. Therefore, the features of claim 8 must be shown or the feature(s) canceled from the claim(s). No new matter should be entered.

Corrected drawing sheets in compliance with 37 CFR 1.121(d) are required in reply to the Office action to avoid abandonment of the application. Any amended replacement drawing sheet should include all of the figures appearing on the immediate prior version of the sheet, even if only one figure is being amended. The figure or figure number of an amended drawing should not be labeled as "amended." If a drawing figure is to be canceled, the appropriate figure must be removed from the replacement sheet, and where necessary, the remaining figures must be renumbered and appropriate changes made to the brief description of the several views of the drawings for consistency. Additional replacement sheets may be necessary to show the renumbering of the remaining figures. Each drawing sheet submitted after the filing date of an application must be labeled in the top margin as either "Replacement Sheet" or "New Sheet" pursuant to 37 CFR 1.121(d). If the changes are not accepted by the examiner, the applicant will be notified and informed of any required corrective action in the next Office action. The objection to the drawings will not be held in abeyance.

2. Claims 1-10 are objected to because the followings are examples of the terms or features which are confusing and unclear: Claims 1-10, the terms "characterized in that it" are unclear; claim 1, line 2, the term "multiterminal seal" is confusing and unclear, line

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4, it is unclear what the features "it" and "each" are referring to, line 5 is unclear since the connection terminal is not positively claimed; claim 4 features are unclear; claim 5, lines 3-5, the features "a front part having a section ... to the section of the connection wire" are unclear what being claimed; claim 8 features are unclear since they are not clearly shown in the drawings; claim 10, the feature "receiving electrical connection wires of different sections" is unclear what being claimed.

3. The following is a quotation of the appropriate paragraphs of 35 U.S.C. 102 that form the basis for the rejections under this section made in this Office action:

A person shall be entitled to a patent unless –

4. (e) the invention was described in (1) an application for patent, published under section 122(b), by another filed in the United States before the invention by the applicant for patent or (2) a patent granted on an application for patent by another filed in the United States before the invention by the applicant for patent, except that an international application filed under the treaty defined in section 351(a) shall have the effects for purposes of this subsection of an application filed in the United States only if the international application designated the United States and was published under Article 21(2) of such treaty in the English language.

5. Claims 1, 5, 7 and 9-10 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(e) as being anticipated by Hamai (0127912).

Insofar as the claims can be understood, Hamai, Figs. 1-8 show a sealing system having a plastic body 7, a flexible multiterminal seal 12, through holes 23,24, a terminal 6A,6B,6C, a wire 4D, 4E,4F, a single tubular unit seal (not labeled) on the wire.

As to claim 5, Hamai shows the holes of the multiterminal seal having a front part could adapt to the single unit seal and the rear part could adapt to the connection wire.

As to claim 7, Hamai shows the front part of each of the holes is smooth.

As to claim 9, Hamai shows the multiterminal seal is elastic and impermeable material.

As claim 10, Hamai shows terminals 6A,6B,6C receiving connection wires of different sections.

6. The following is a quotation of 35 U.S.C. 103(a) which forms the basis for all obviousness rejections set forth in this Office action:

(a) A patent may not be obtained though the invention is not identically disclosed or described as set forth in section 102 of this title, if the differences between the subject matter sought to be patented and the prior art are such that the subject matter as a whole would have been obvious at the time the invention was made to a person having ordinary skill in the art to which said subject matter pertains. Patentability shall not be negated by the manner in which the invention was made.

7. Claims 2-4, 6 and 8 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Hamai et al (0127912) in view of Makita et al (5611706).

As to claims 2-3, 6, insofar as the claims can be understood, Hamai does not clearly show the single unit seal has sealing lips pressing on the walls of the holes, and a smooth second section. Makita, Figs. 4-6B show a single unit seal 25 having sealing lips 49 pressing on the walls of the holes 31, and having a smooth second section 33.

As to claim 4, Hamai discloses the single unit is partially inserted into the terminal.

As to claim 8, in absence of any showing of criticality by the applicant, to form the multiterminal seal with two plates positioned on top of one another would have been obvious of modification since such changes solves no stated problem.

8. Murakami et al, Mori, Tachi, France et al, McKenzie et al, and Saito are cited for disclosure of Waterproof connectors.

9. Any inquiry concerning this communication should be directed to Hien D. Vu at telephone number 571-272-2016.

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HV

9/16/06

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Hien Vu".

**HIEN VU**  
**PRIMARY EXAMINER**